

# Kanza SPIRIT

Got questions about  
the new mandatory  
travel card?  
We've got answers!

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Spotlight  
on Women's  
History Month

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Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

## Protecting our military

Defense secretary  
sounds off  
on anthrax shots

By William Cohen

*Secretary of Defense*

WASHINGTON — One of the clearest responsibilities of any secretary of defense is to protect the men and women the United States deploys in harm's way around the world to safeguard our national interests. That is why I, acting on the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, decided to start vaccinating every member of the military against exposure to anthrax, a highly lethal biological agent that at least 10 countries possess in their arsenals or are in the process of acquiring.

In 1996, the Joint Chiefs of Staff identified anthrax as the number one biological threat to our troops. After the Gulf War, United Nations inspectors confirmed that Iraq had produced thousands of gallons of anthrax and deployed it in missile warheads, artillery shells and spray tanks for use from airplanes. As a weapon of mass destruction, anthrax is cheap and much easier to develop than nuclear munitions. When dispersed in aerosol form, the

colorless, odorless bacteria covers a wide area and kills people within several days. In 1979, approximately 70 Russians died after breathing anthrax spores that escaped from a Soviet biological research facility.

Fortunately, Iraq did not use anthrax against our troops during Desert Storm in 1991, but we can't expect that future adversaries, including terrorists, would not do so. At a time when the U.S. maintains clear conventional military superiority, enemies will be tempted to turn to unconventional weapons, such as anthrax, as a way to defeat our troops.

Although anthrax is highly deadly, we have developed protective equipment and medicines to secure the safety of our troops. In 1970, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a vaccine to protect humans who might be exposed to anthrax. This vaccine has a proven safety record over 30 years of use by thousands of veterans, woolworkers and veterinarians.

Protective gear provides only temporary protection, while the vaccine constantly protects troops who might breathe anthrax spores spread on the battlefield.

See SHOTS, Page 9



Staff Sgt. Jason Whited

### Jump ball

Tech. Sgt. Milton Willhight (left), 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, tries to come up with the ball during intramural basketball action Feb. 16 at the fitness center. The 931st team is trying for another championship in the Over 30 Basketball League. Check out Page 8 to see how they're doing.



# From the commander...

By Col. Daniel Opp

931st Air Refueling Group  
Commander

## And the winners are?

Bringing home the gold in this past month are two of Intel's finest. Maj. Steve Kett won the Outstanding Intelligence Field Grade Officer of the Year category, and Staff Sgt. Bill Durand won the Outstanding Intelligence Noncommissioned Officer of the Year. My congratulations go to each of you for representing the 931st so well. This was quite a coup, taking two of the four possible individual honors.

Our most recent graduate from the Airman Leadership School also had a coup of his own. Not only did Senior Airman Jason Whited graduate, he did so with style, winning the coveted John L. Levitow Award award for the top graduate in the class. This has only been matched one other time in 931st history when Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis, who was also in PA, won the award.

## An old face returns!

Just like in the Bible, where the father is overjoyed at the return of the prodigal son, I'd like to welcome Chaplain Chuck Peters back into the fold. The Chaplain has decided not to move back to the cold country and will resume his duties here in the 931st. The rest of that Bible story is a huge celebration with the killing of the fatted calf. And

in that tradition, Chaplain Peters and I will celebrate his return with some beef jerky. Welcome back, Chaplain! You can probably tell from my rendition of Biblical stories that your return is none too soon.

## AEF update

March 3rd marks our successful completion of our obligations in AEF No. 3. We did an outstanding job of filling these commitments and going above and beyond. Several of the crew chiefs and specialists from the AGS filled shortfalls in AEF 3, while our plans shop filled a shortfall in AEF No. 4. Coming up in AEF No. 6, Staff Sgt. Durand will fill an intel position from Apr. 22 to May 6. Thanks to all who deployed.

## Look out -- we're growing!

It looks like the 931st will be growing in the near future. We are planning on adding the 931st Aerospace Medicine Squadron to the Kanza Group. This will be a 21-person unit with various positions throughout that will support our medical needs.

If you know of someone interested in becoming a flight surgeon, optometrist, dentist, physicians assistant or medical technician, please refer them to our recruiter, Master Sgt. David McCormick at 759-4350.

## What's up with the travel card?

A lot of questions have been asked about the government travel card program. Hopefully,



Col. Daniel Opp

all of your questions will be answered by reading the printed questions and answers on Page 3 of this month's Spirit.

Let me stress two things: First, if you don't use the card, you will be reimbursed and second, if you don't use the card, you will be in violation of not following an order to do so.

Bottom line, get the card and use it. I also suggest using the split disbursement option when you file your travel voucher and then you should never have to worry about a credit card payment.

## What happened to my...?

That's it for this edition, but just to dispel all the rumors out there, according to my wife, I have already gone through my mid-life crisis -- I shaved it because I was tired of trimming it. That's all there is to that story. THINK SAFE, BE SAFE at home, at work and at play!



Vol. 5, No. 3

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## Refer a friend to the Air Force Reserve!



There are positions available with the 931st Air Refueling Group.

Help us recruit by

providing the name of a friend or have them contact our recruiter, Master Sgt. David McCormick, at 759-4350.





# VISA travel card policy now in effect

By Staff Sgt. Cynthia Miller

Headquarters United States  
Air Force

WASHINGTON — DOD policy is being finalized which will mandate federal employees, including military members, to no longer use their personal credit cards for authorized expenses while on official government travel.

Use of the government Visa travel card by all federal employees became mandatory Mar. 1, according to revised policies dictated by the Travel and Transportation Reform Act of 1998.

"The policy has not been formally signed out but it's important to get as much information out as possible. We want to provide our people in the field with the latest information we have," said Michael Weber, card coordinator for the Air Force.

The Act created the requirement to enable the government to take advantage of rebates from charge card companies and to help track travel expenditures, Air Force officials said.

## Not negotiable

Defense Department employees will be required to use the government travel card primarily for hotel costs, car rentals and air travel.

"These services were selected because all major airlines, hotels and car rental companies will accept the government travel card," said Weber.

"It may be difficult to use the card at some of the smaller merchant stores. For that reason, card use is not required for such expenses as restaurant meals and other miscellaneous incidental items," he said.

The government gets a rebate

based on the amount of charges against the card. "That rebate is used by [the Government Services Agency] for manning the program," Mr. Weber said, "and the [Air Force portion] of the rebate is given back to each major command to be put in their travel budget."

## Not everyone likes the idea

Despite the convenience of using the government Visa card, its mandatory use has evoked some criticism. Questions have been asked about the charging of interest rates on overdue balances, especially on long deployments.

"By contract, the bank can't charge interest on overdue balances," Mr. Weber said. "That's why we don't call it a credit card - it's a travel card. With a credit card, if you don't pay your balance, interest automatically accrues. The travel card doesn't have that. After 120 days, you would be charged a \$20 late fee, but that's way late in the process."

Base finance offices have two ways of handling the financial interests of those deployed for longer than 60 days. They can either issue an advance up front for the entire amount entitled for that deployment, or they can send a monthly entitlement to the deployed person's checking account — making the money available to pay off the travel card's balances.

As with any form of card, failure to pay the bill in a timely manner can affect credit ratings.

When applying for the travel card, service members are afforded some measure of privacy regarding their credit history. If objections are made to credit inquiries from the issuing bank, simply check the block denying access to credit history on the application, and a

## Travel card Q & A

### Q Why was this law passed?

**A** Congress passed the law in 1998 for all Federal Government travel. To the best of our knowledge, there was no formal input from the Air Force. Therefore, we do not know the exact reason for the law.

### Q Is the law designed to get rebates for the government?

**A** The government does receive a quarterly rebate from the bank based on total charges to the cards. However, this is not the prime benefit to the card program, the rebate amount is small and a portion is used to pay for GSA administration, and the rest goes back into the travel budgets of the bases and units.

### Q How disruptive is this new policy going to be?

**A** We've had a travel card for over 10 years and for the last couple of years we've had over 400,000 travelers using

this card for their travel needs. For them it will be business as usual.

### Q If I don't use the card will I be reimbursed?

**A** Yes. The issue will be whether or not you followed policy in conducting your travel.

### Q Do I have to use the card for everything?

**A** No. It is required only for transportation, hotel and car rental. Expenses for parking, dry cleaning, meals, and tips etc. can be handled however you like.

### Q Will special measures be taken to catch violators?

**A** There is no plan to program computers or establish a work force to screen for this. There is a routine random audit of travel vouchers -- if it appears this policy has been violated, commanders might be notified.

restricted, limited card will be issued.

The restricted card, which looks like the standard version, must be activated by a designated member of the traveler's unit and it carries a lower spending limit. If the bank is allowed to perform a credit check, the member's credit history will show only that the bank has looked, no other information, such as dollar values, will be posted, Air Force officials said.

## Punishment for nonuse of the card?

Although use of the travel card is mandatory, punitive actions for those who fail to use it remains at the unit commander's

discretion.

"Rumors are going around that if travelers do not use the travel card, they will not be reimbursed on their travel voucher," Mr. Weber said. "Travelers will be reimbursed when vouchers are submitted, regardless of card use. However, by not using the card, they would be in violation of the law and could be subject to disciplinary action."

"There will be a statement put on the travel order that will reference the law and tell the traveler that he or she must use the travel card," he said.

Those exempt from using the card include Academy cadets, basic military trainees, and airmen attending technical school.



# Human Resource Development Council working to take care of our people

By Lt. Col. Ellis Yoder  
931st ARG Deputy Commander

The mission statement of the 931st Air Refueling Group is "To Provide Mission Ready Reservists to Fly, Maintain, and Support Global Reach for America." More specifically, we maintain and fly KC-135s in support of our nation's global military operations.

Of all the resources available to our commander to meet this important responsibility, without question, the most important is the men and women who make up our organization. Although we have a great unit made up of many outstanding and very talented individuals, the need to continually improve is a never-ending one.

The purpose of the 931st Human Resource Development Council is to address the issue of how to get the most from our people.

The HRDC is made up of a diverse group of individuals who represent each of the organizations within the group and is a good cross section of our personnel regarding race, gender, rank and military status (civilians are included). The Council has identified three areas of focus: recruitment, personal

and professional development and Retention. For the 931st ARG to continually improve in efficiency and productivity, we must recruit the most qualified people from the largest recruitment pool possible, promote their personal and professional development to help them achieve their maximum potential and then retain them for as long as possible to take advantage of their valuable experience and knowledge.

Although the purpose of the HRDC is rather easy to state, it is not so easy to fulfill, and we need your help.

As Col. Opp said at his last commander's call, every member of the 931st is a member of the HRDC. Those who are appointed to the Council can be considered your point-of-contact through whom you can pass your ideas.

Some questions you can help the Council answer are "how do we inform every high school and college student in the area about career opportunities with the AF Reserves? How do we sell them on the Reserves? How do we better inform our people of educational opportunities available to them? And then use them? How can we better prepare our junior members to assume

## HRDC representatives

You can directly contribute to the process by contacting section's HRDC representative:

**931st ARG staff** -- Maj. Susan Lovas, Ext. 3818; Capt. Joe Wible, Ext. 3865; Master Sgt. David McCormick, Ext. 3766; and Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown, Ext. 6935

**931st OSF** -- Tech. Sgt. Lauren Harper, Ext. 3137 and Tech. Sgt. Christine Wood, Ext. 4409

**931st CES** -- Tech. Sgt. Nancy Link, Ext. 5499 and Tech. Sgt. Barbara West, Ext. 5499

**18th ARS** -- 1st Lt. Travis Clark, Ext. 3432 and Carolyn Wallace, Ext. 3741

**931st MSF** - 1st Lt. Martha Kuder, Ext. 3546; Master Sgt. Alma Fewlass, Ext. 3793; and Master Sgt. Pam Summers, Ext. 3587

**931st AGS** -- Tech. Sgt. Steven Marshall, Ext. 6228 and Senior Airman Paula Hearn, Ext. 6228

leadership roles? How can we improve morale in the unit?" and "How can we do a better job of recognizing and rewarding individuals for a job well done?"

If you have an answer to any of these questions or an idea that might improve the "human resources" of the 931st ARG in any way, talk to or e-mail the HRDC representative nearest you.

Although the Council meets as a full body on the first UTA of each quarter, we do have a "fast-track" process which allows good ideas to be implemented without going before the full

Council.

Note: The HRDC has also added subgroups to address mentoring/career development as well as recruiting and retention.

If you're interested in following the progress of these groups, visit their folders on the 931st ARG Bulletin Board in Microsoft Outlook.

Readers can post suggestions in the suggestions folder of HRDC Subgroups.

Because of occasional technical problems, readers might have to actually download files to a disk to read them.

## Voting info now available via Internet

By Army Staff Sgt.  
Kathleen Rhem

American Forces Information  
Service

WASHINGTON — You can tell it's an election year, because there's a nonstop media barrage telling which candidates are saying what where.

But where do uniformed members find clear-cut information on how to vote in their home districts?

Well, look no further than the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, [www.fvap.ncr.gov](http://www.fvap.ncr.gov).

The FVAP is responsible for informing and educating all U.S.

citizens worldwide of their right to vote, fostering voter participation and protecting the integrity of the electoral process.

Helpful features on the site include links to state election sites, a handy chart listing the dates of all state primary elections, and answers to frequently asked questions.







## Great job!

Recently, three 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron troops were honored by the Republic of Singapore Air Force with individual appreciation awards. The awards were handed out for contributions our troops made in training RSAF airmen to understand all aircraft systems and learn to troubleshoot maintenance problems. Photos by Master Sgt. Larry Shippy.



Master Sgt. Wade Jones receives his award from Lt. Col. M. H. Yang, Deputy Head of Air Operations.



Tech. Sgt. Jim Kirk is honored by RSAF officials.



Senior Airman Joseph Reid receives his award from Yang.

# Women: Do your part in fight against breast cancer

By Master Sgt. Lea Shivley  
18th Air Refueling Squadron  
Medical Element

The American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute both advocate early screenings for breast cancer.

All women are at risk of breast cancer; however, the risk increases as we grow older. Other risk factors include family history of breast cancer, beginning menstruation at an early age, late onset of menopause, never having children or having them later in life, alcohol consumption or a diet high in fat.

## Signs and symptoms

The possible signs and symptoms may include changes seen on a mammogram, skin irritation, scaliness, pain tenderness or nipple discharge, thickness, swelling, dimpling, retraction, distortion or lumps in the breasts.

## Do your part in the fight

You can do your part by taking an active role in the screening process. If you are 20 years or older, you should perform monthly breast self-exams. I recommend doing this one week after the end of your menstrual cycle. If you're between 20 and 39 years of age, see your clinician every three years for a breast exam. If you are 40 years of age or older, have a baseline mammogram every year. You should also have your clinician perform a breast exam every year. See your clinician if you have a family history of breast cancer. They will advise

## Warning signs of cancer

Use the word CAUTION as a memory tool to watch for the signs of cancer:

**C** -- Change in bowel or bladder patterns

**A** -- A sore throat that won't heal

**U** -- Unusual bleeding or discharge

**T** -- Thickening or lumps in breasts or elsewhere

**I** -- Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing

**O** -- Obvious changes in moles or warts

**N** -- Nagging cough or hoarseness

**Source:** American Cancer Society's Cancer Facts and Figures

you on when and how often you should have a mammogram performed.

If you're a female, Air Force policy requires women 40 or older to have a mammogram or provide documentation of a baseline mammogram at each non-flying physical (every five years) or each long-flying physical exam. If you prefer to have your mammogram performed by the military, they are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at the 22nd Medical Group.

If a special need exists, they may be performed Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Remember, it's up to you to do your part. Be proactive and take the initiative. Your health may depend on it.



March is Women's History Month. Join the Sp...  
women in uniform have made to the fight for fre



All photos U. S. Air Force photos  
**Airman Anne Moor, an Air Force security forces member, stands guard in Panama while a C-130 is unloaded.**



**Sgt. Sherry Callahan, an Air Force ass... exhaust nozzle of an F-15.**

# Tradition of

**By Rudi Williams**

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON — Today's military women are doctors, lawyers, pilots, heavy equipment operators, air traffic controllers, paratroopers, forklift operators and military police. But women haven't always enjoyed such prominence in the military.

It took more than 220 years and many trials, tribulations and indignities for women to reach their present plateau in military service, said retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma Vaught.

They've climbed from being cooks, laundresses and nurses with no rank, to generals,

admirals, astronauts, pilots, ships' captains, heavy equipment operators, administrators and much more, Vaught said in an interview with the American Forces Press Service. She is president of the board of directors of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation.

Vaught said she's not one to dwell upon the past, noting there's too much to be excited about today and the future. But it's important for military women today to be aware of their history, she said, quoting a Chinese maxim: "When drinking the water, don't forget who dug the well."

"Many women don't

understand today's military isn't the way it has always been for women," said Vaught. "If you're going to understand where you need to go, you need to understand where you've been."

It dismays her when women say all the problems women encountered in the military since the Revolutionary War have been solved — especially those who say, "I've never been discriminated against."

"They haven't really looked around them and don't really understand that all the problems are not solved," she said. "If they've just come into the military, they may believe there isn't any discrimination. But as

they get a little further downstream they'll get a little wiser and understand how discrimination is practiced today vs. another time."

She quickly added, "But it's still so much better than it was when I joined the Air Force in 1957. There's a greater acceptance — respect — today, and women are here to stay."



**Maj. Jean Trakin coordinates to a... during an exerci... AFB, Guam.**



pirit staff in both saluting the contributions  
freedom and celebrating their longstanding...



Assistant crew chief, inspects the



A pediatric nurse practitioner works in the Air Force Hospital K. I. Sawyer.

# excellence



at gives  
arriving aircraft  
ise at Andersen

Vaught's historical view starts with the American Revolution, where, she noted, there was no place for women soldiers.

However, problems of caring for sick and wounded soldiers prompted the Continental Congress to authorize Gen. George Washington to hire matrons at a

rate of one or two per 100 soldiers.

Other women went along with their husbands as nurses, laundresses and cooks, which held true for about 100 years, Vaught said.

This tradition pretty much held true until World War II when thousands of women lined up to join the Women's Army Corps; the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service); the WASPs (Women Airforce Service Pilots); the Naval Reserve; the Marines; and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, the SPARs (from the service's motto, "Semper Paratus," "always prepared").

When the war ended, planners and strategists recognized women's talents and skills would be needed in any future war, Vaught said.

They saw a need for a peacetime cadre of women and so worked to get legislation giving women a permanent place in the military.

The Women's Armed Services Integration Act, passed in 1948, codified women's status as it was at the end of World War II. "It did give women rank and a permanent place in the services in wartime and peacetime," she said.

As the Vietnam War wound down and the all-volunteer force

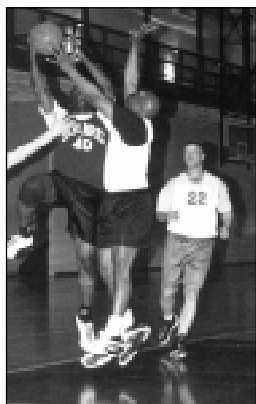
came along in the early 1970s, women's value to the military came to be recognized more, Vaught said. And one of the big differences today is the freedom military women now have to report something that's not right.

"It was tough for women in the 1700s, 1800s, 1900s, and it will be tough for women in the next century," she said. "But women proved they could do the job as well as most men. They've gained the respect they've deserved all along."

**Editor's note:** Want to learn more about women's contribution to the armed forces? Go online at [www.defenselink.mil/specials/womenshistory](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/womenshistory).



# Hoop dreams



The 931st pulled ahead in the last minute of the game -- beating Comm by four points.



Members of the 931st Air Refueling Group "Over 30" men's basketball team rally around coach Capt. Ken Dodd during a time-out.



Senior Airman Ray McIntosh goes up for a shot during the Men's Over 30 tournament.

## 931st 'Over 30' men's basketball team shoots for another championship

Story and photos by Staff Sgt.

Jason Whited

*Kanza Spirit Editor*

Ask any member of the 931st Air Refueling Group's Over 30 men's basketball team what motivates them to shoot for their second championship in three years, and they'll give you a one word answer: pain.

Team members have felt this pain ever since being knocked out in last year's tournament by the 22nd Communications Squadron team. For months, 931st players have mulled over their loss -- going through the entire spectrum of emotion as they waited for this year's tournament -- and plotted their revenge.

The chance to avenge their loss came in a Feb. 17 game against Comm, and 931st team members took a giant leap toward getting that monkey off their back and winning another title -- beating the 22nd CS team by four points in the last minute of the game.

The game was hard fought -- the 931st trailed the entire game -- and team members

The team	
<u>Capt. Ken Dodd, coach</u>	
Staff Sgt. Nate Brown	
Tech. Sgt. Lauren Harper	
Maj. Ken Harris	
Lt. Col. Ronald Johnston	
Maj. Ray Kozak	
Tech. Sgt. Steven Marshall	
Senior Airman	
Ray McIntosh	
Tech. Sgt. Ray Patterson	
Maj. Bob Silvia	
Tech. Sgt. Michael Songer	
Tech. Sgt. Milton Willhight	

couldn't seem to even buy a basket for long stretches of the first half. Capt. Ken Dodd, 931st coach, reflected on the game: "We didn't hit what we had to hit, and we had to ensure that we didn't end up beating ourselves."

However, the team reignited their competitive spirit, matching Comm basket

for basket -- and with just 46 second left to play, hit two consecutive baskets -- and walked away with the win.

"The win over Comm was big, and it was due," said player Senior Airman Ray McIntosh. "I was on edge before the game because I kept remembering our last two meetings with them. I was overwhelmed by the win."

The 931st team has played with fire and a fierce competitiveness since the tournament began in early February. After knocking out the 22nd AGS team, 22nd CES and 22nd CS, the team now faces their last opponent before the championship game: the 22nd MSS squad. Can they go all the way?

"We have a good chance to win the whole thing," said Tech. Sgt. Lauren Harper. "To do it though, we're gonna have to be on our game, and everybody's got to know what their role is."

Will they do it? Can they overcome the pain of last year's devastating loss and win their second title in three years? Look for next month's Spirit to find out.





## SHOTS

Continued from Page 1

After evaluating the anthrax threat and the safety of the vaccine, the general who commands U.S. troops in the Middle East requested that all troops deployed to the Arabian Gulf area be vaccinated for anthrax protection. Every day approximately 20,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines stationed in the Gulf awake knowing that they could encounter an anthrax attack. The commander of the 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, who face an anthrax threat from North Korea, also requested vaccinations for his forces.

The Joint Chiefs reviewed these proposals in light of their conclusion that anthrax is the foremost biological threat to our troops. They recommended mandatory anthrax vaccination for all 2.4 million active and reserve members of our military, with the first shots going to troops in or scheduled to go to the Middle East and Korea. They reasoned that force protection should not be optional; just as it is inconceivable to allow a soldier to fight without a helmet, it makes little sense to send a soldier into battle without protection against a known threat like anthrax. Because our military must be able to deploy anywhere on short notice, they recommended vaccinations for all active and reserve personnel.

I supported the recommendation of our military leaders. But before launching the vaccination program, I took steps to make sure that we were prepared. Complaints that the Department of Defense mishandled exposure to Agent Orange and the illnesses suffered by some veterans following the Gulf War in 1991 damaged the military's credibility on medical issues. We have worked hard to correct and learn from these

experiences, and one of the lessons is that our medical programs to protect soldiers in battle must be planned and implemented with an emphasis on safety.

As a result, I decided to delay vaccinations until four conditions were met. First, I ordered supplemental testing, consistent with FDA standards, to assure that the vaccine supplies are sterile, safe, potent and pure. Second, I instructed the services to design a system that accurately tracks personnel who received the six shots required in the vaccination program. Third, I required the services to develop plans for educating people about the program and administering the immunizations.

Finally, I ordered an independent review of the health and medical protocols of the program. This was performed by Dr. Gerald Burrow, the highly respected former dean of the Yale Medical School, who assisted the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses.

The vaccinations began in 1998 after these four conditions were met. Gen. Hugh Shelton, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and I were among the first to receive the shots. We experienced the same mild side effects, such as temporary soreness or a small bump on the arm, that many others feel. Indeed, the side effects are frequently less than those caused by other routine vaccinations that most Americans receive. Our careful monitoring of the program reveals no unexpected side effects.

Nevertheless, if our troops experience a negative reaction, we provide quality medical care.

More than 400,000 active duty soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have started receiving the series of six shots, while only about 300 have refused vaccinations. We take seriously



## Spring is a great time to remodel -- do it safely!

**By Maj. William Eaton**  
*931st Aircraft Generation Squadron Commander*

There are a lot of folks in the 931st ARG who seem to be watching too much "This Old House." Everywhere you walk in the halls of Building No. 850 people are talking about remodeling homes, building additions, painting, etc., etc.

This pioneer mindset holds many benefits. Besides impressing your spouse with all of your manly or womanly (for those of you that know Maj. Randy Brink) attributes, it allows for some very inexpensive upgrades to enhance the value of your home. This pioneer mindset however, can also lead to many detrimental — even fatal — accidents.

There are a number of us would-be carpenters out there who don't have the necessary tools to finish a job safely. This lack of tools can lead to many shortcuts.

One shortcut that comes to mind instantly is a modification to a nail gun. While going to college at the only University in Texas (Texas Tech University), I worked part time for a building contractor. Working with me was a very intelligent young man by

the name of Mark. Mark thought that wiring back the safety mechanism on the nail gun could lead to a huge increase in productivity, thereby allowing Mark to receive all the praise and glory from the boss. Not wanting to make waves, but realizing that Mark's tape measure didn't pull all the way out; I went along with him. Did I mention Mark was out on parole? After making the necessary modifications, Mark started to work — and right swiftly I might add. He was very proud of his ingenuity, and I was feeling very humbled for passing judgment until he kicked the nail gun to get it out of the way. Now, if you have never seen what a nail gun can do you probably will not believe this story. The nail gun discharged sending a 16 penny nail at who knows how many feet per second right back to Mark's left ear lobe. Before Mark pulled the nail out of his ear lobe he had to walk around to the other building sites and show everyone this nail sticking through his ear lobe. Remember when I mentioned the tape measure!!

The point of this story is as spring arrives and you feel that urge to work on the house, be careful. Use the correct tools and don't take shortcuts.

the concerns people have raised, and we're in the process of distributing additional material to explain the program to troops and their families. We have bolstered our Anthrax Web site to counter some of the erroneous assertions about the vaccine that are circulating on the Internet.

We don't want to lose a single

member because of concerns over this program. But most of all, we don't want to run the risk of losing thousands of men and women in uniform from an anthrax attack for which we are unprepared. The threat is real, and we are carrying out a prudent, safe program to counter the dangers our troops face.



# Smart shopping

## Commissary shoppers can save \$2,000 plus annually

FORT LEE, Va. -- Reservists who shop at the commissary can save \$2,000 or more annually on groceries, according to Defense Commissary Agency officials here.

Members of Air Force Reserve Command and other Reserve components are authorized 24 commissary visits each year, when they shop with their Commissary Privilege Card and military identification card.

"Commissary shopping is part of (reservists') non-pay military compensation, and we at

DeCA want reservists to use their commissary benefit," said Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., director of DeCA. "After all, they earned it."

The most recent market basket survey reports that commissary shoppers save 27 percent on their grocery purchases.

This means that a reservist shopping for a family of four could save more than \$2,000 annually by using the commissary.

To shop the commissary,

reservists or members of their immediate family need a valid identification card and a current Commissary Privilege Card that entitles them to 24 shopping days.

These cards are stamped or initialed when purchases are made.

During periods of active duty for training, reservists can visit the commissary as many times as they wish by showing their military ID and active-duty orders.

Twenty-four commissary visits are also available to "gray area" reservist retirees.

These people are entitled to

retired pay at age 60, but have not yet reached age 60. When they reach age 60, retired reservists and their eligible dependents have unlimited access to the commissary.

Reservists who have not received a current Commissary Privilege Card in the mail, or in person, should contact their unit or other issuing authority in order to get one.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver offers additional information on its Web site at [www.arpc.org/director/dr/cards.htm](http://www.arpc.org/director/dr/cards.htm). (Courtesy of AFRC News Service from a DeCA news release)

## Armed forces vital to 2000 Census

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas -- The Census Bureau is asking Air Force members to perform one more civic duty: to make sure they are counted in Census 2000.

Census Day is April 1. The majority of people in the United States will be counted in Census 2000 at their usual residence, the place where they live and sleep most of the time. This place is not necessarily the same as the person's voting or legal residence. Determining one's usual residence is easy for most people, but it may not be so apparent for people in the armed forces and their families.

Here are the rules:

People in the armed forces residing in the United States are counted at their usual residence.

People in the armed forces assigned to military installations outside the United States,

including family members with them, are counted through the administrative records of their service branch.

If there is someone in a military family looking for work, the census also provides opportunities for employment.

Census workers receive up to three days of paid training in organization, reading maps, filling out necessary forms, interviewing and dealing with difficult or unusual interviewing situations.

The Census Bureau is also actively seeking bilingual recruits to staff facilities and conduct the census in areas where foreign languages are spoken.

Call (888) 325-7733 toll-free for more information about Census 2000 jobs. (Courtesy of U.S. Census Bureau and Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

### From the IG

#### Who we are

Every member of the group has the right to use the IG complaints system to seek resolutions to problems. As the IG, I will do everything I can to help resolve any problems you bring me. I will, however, always ask you to go through your chain-of-command first. Your immediate supervisor, first sergeant, or squadron commander deserves the opportunity to work your problem, if possible. The group commander and the command chief master sergeant also stand ready to help, if necessary.

If none of these individuals are able to resolve the issue to your satisfaction, the IG process may be your next course of action. Any time you desire to talk to me about an IG issue, or any other matter, please feel free to call Ext. 3684,

make an appointment, simply stop by the office or send e-mail to me. If an IG issue arises and I am not available, you may contact Maj. Steve Kett, 931st Intelligence at Ext. 5853 (the alternate IG). You can find our names and numbers on IG posters around the group.

**Primary IG:** Lt. Col. Ralph Rissmiller, Building No. 850, Room No. 244  
(316) 759-3684/DSN 743-3684

**Alternate IG:** Maj. Steve Kett, Building No. 850, Room No. 253  
(316) 759-5853/DSN 743-5853

**Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Hotline** -- (316) 759-3192/DSN 743-3192

**DOD Hotline** -- (703) 693-5080/(800) 424-9098/DSN 223-5080



# Spirit Shorts

## Upcoming UTAs

April -- 8, 9  
May -- 6, 7  
June -- 10, 11  
July -- 15, 16  
August -- 5, 6  
September -- 9, 10

## Movin' on up

The following 931st Air Refueling Group members recently completed Professional Military Education or formal technical training schools.

Congratulations go to:

**Senior Airman Jason Whited**, 931st Public Affairs, completed Airman Leadership School, winning the John L. Levitow Award.

**Senior Airman Lareina Waldorff**, 931st Mission Support Flight, completed Information Management 3-level School.

**Staff Sgt. Russell Lade**, 931st Aircraft Generation Squadron, completed Jet Engine 3-level School.

**Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hicks**, 931st AGS, completed Avionics 7-level School.

**Staff Sgt. Thomas Costello**, 931st AGS, completed Crew Chief 7-level School.

## Transitions

Congratulations go to the unit's most recent retrainees: **Staff Sgt. Darren Demel** is going to be an In-Flight Refueler!

**Senior Airman Alicia Bowens** is retraining to Communications-Computer Systems Operations!

## Military Personnel Flight hours

The military personnel flight is open Mondays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., UTA Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4

p.m. and UTA Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Need to outprocess?

If you, or any unit member you know, needs to out process for TDY, reassignment or retirement, remember that the military pay office is open only on UTA Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come back during the week to finish all that boring outprocessing stuff! You can get it done during the UTA!

For more info, contact Tech. Sgt. Anick Wallace in Relocations at Ext. 3665.

## Fill out that Form No. 93!!!

The DD Form No. 93 provides information on your primary next of kin, secondary next of kin and anyone else who should be notified in case of your death.

This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

Cheery stuff, huh?

Members should take this form very seriously and fill it out as soon as possible to ensure their families receive all they're entitled to.

## MPF in-house training

The military personnel flight is closed each UTA Sunday from 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. for in-house training.

Training classes are held in the TNET room (Room No. 217), and all administrative personnel are welcome to attend.

## NCO Academy dates

We only have three slots remaining for this fiscal year, all

beginning in September. Staff sergeants with eight years time in service and all technical sergeants may contact Group Training at Ext. 5423 for details.

## Unit vacancies

The 931st Air Refueling Group is looking for folks to fill the AFSCs listed below. Interested? Contact Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz at Ext. 3587.

3E4X2 - Liquid Fuels  
1S0X1 - Safety  
3E4X1 - Utility  
4F0X1 - Aeromed Tech  
3E0X2 - Electrical Power  
1N0X1 - Intel  
3E3X1 - Structures  
2A6X5 - Aircraft Pneudraulics  
8C000 - Family Readiness  
48G3 - Flight Surgeon  
11T3B - Pilot

## Bring in your line badges on March UTA

All personnel need to bring in their line badges for inventory during the March UTA. For more info, contact Master Sgt. Charles Smith at Ext. 5989.

## New 931st ARG Web address

The 931st Air Refueling Group has a new address on the World Wide Web.

From your home computer, point your browser to: [www.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw/default.htm](http://www.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw/default.htm).

From your military computer, point your browser to [www.mil.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw/default.htm](http://www.mil.afrc.af.mil/units/931aw/default.htm).

## Consumer product recalls

You don't have to wait to hear about the latest Pokemon ball

recall on the 10 o'clock news -- the 931st Air Refueling Group Safety Office now provides links to the latest Consumer Product Safety Commission recalls on the unit's public drive.

On the drive, KANZA02, you'll find a Word document with information and hyperlinks to every CPSC recall for the year.

Some of the latest product recalls include Scrub Free shower cleaner as well as some boys' jackets.

Check it out -- this info could prevent a tragedy!

## Legal assistance

The 931st Judge Advocate staff is ready to assist unit members in any possible way and offers a variety of services:

For more info on how the 931st JA can help you, call Ext. 3804.

## 18th ARS first sergeant vacancy

The commander, 18th ARS, is seeking qualified candidates interested in being a first sergeant.

Individuals interested must submit a retraining application to 931 MSF/DPMSA, Personnel Employment, no later than April 9.

Candidates must be a master sergeant or technical sergeant (immediately promotable to master sergeant) and have completed the NCO Academy no later than the application deadline.

Direct questions regarding retraining requirements and application package requirements to Master Sgt. Corinna Seitz at Ext. 3587.



# Wichita Weekend

## Community Theater

**The Foreigner**, Wichita Community Theatre, 258 N. Fountain, 8p.m. 682-1282

**Robin Hood**, Crown Uptown Professional Theatre, 3107 E. Douglas, 681-1566.

Children's Theatre Season tickets \$37.50 plus tax per person.

**Wedded to a Villain**, Mosley Street Melodrama 234 N. Mosley, 6pm. Come boo the villain and cheer the hero as we open our new season with "Wedded to a Villain" followed by the "Sweethearts Musical Comedy Revue."

Call 263-0222 for information or reservations. \$22.50 dinner and show / \$13 Show only

**Fiddler on the Roof**, Crown Uptown Professional Theatre, 3107 E. Douglas, 681-1566. The world's greatest musical. Songs include Tradition, Matchmaker, If I Were A Rich Man, Sunrise, Sunset. Season tickets (8 shows) \$127.68-\$172.48.

Each performance \$19.95-\$26.95. R.

## Sott Angrave in concert

March 3 through 5 Loony Bin Comedy Club, Oxford Square Center, 6140 E. 21st St., 8pm. 681-HAHA (4242)

## Ballet

March 3 through 5, Friends University Alexander Auditorium, 2100 W. University, 295-5677. Performance featuring Friends U. Ballet Dept. and Wichita Ballet Theatre

## Elk sale

Mar. 4, Kansas Coliseum, I-135, Exit No. 17 at 35th St. N., 755-1243. Seminar 9am; Sale noon. Free.

## KAKE Family Lifestyle & Health Fair

Mar. 4, Towne West Square, 4600 W. Kellogg, noon. 943-4221

## Wichita/Park City Wrestling Classic

Mar. 4, Kansas Coliseum, Pavillion 2, 1229 E. 85th. St. N., 8am. Adults \$5; 17 & under \$2. 755-1243.

## Antique Gun Show

Mar. 4, 5 Kansas Coliseum, 1229 E. 85th. St., 796-1108. \$5; 12 & under free.

## Wichita Symphony Classics VIII

Mar. 4, 5. Jennifer Koh, violin. Century II, 225 W. Douglas, Wichita Symphony Orchestra 267-7658

## Grace Griffith in concert

Mar. 5. Old Settlers Inn, 118 S. Christian, Moundridge, 316-345-2733. Mail: 10431 N. Old Settlers Rd, Moundridge, KS 67107. Grace was formerly lead singer of Washington's popular Irish band "The Hags." Old Settlers Inn offers acoustic blues, folk, celtic, bluegrass and more in a 120-seat casual concert setting Sundays at 4:30. The cafe serves soup, bread, dessert and beverages 4-7. Children welcome. No-smoking/no-alcohol. Seating limited. All shows recorded for New Settlers Radio Hour, Saturday & Sunday, on KMWU 89.1 FM. Tickets: \$10

## Flick picks

The following movies will be showing at the base theater during the March UTA:

### Friday

"Next Friday" (R)  
1 hour, 33 minutes

### Saturday

"Play it to the Bone" (R)  
2 hours, 5 minutes

### Sunday

"Next Friday" (R)  
1 hour, 33 minutes

### Other area theaters:

Cinemas East 6: 684-2805  
Towne East 4: 685-1121  
Towne East 2: 681-2717  
Cinemas West: 729-5665  
Towne West 5: 945-5093  
Royale 8: 282-4423  
Norhtrock 14: 636-5432  
Northrock 6: 636-5431  
Palace: 721-7949  
Premier Palace: 691-9700  
Warren Theater: 721-9545

**931st ARG/PA**  
**53280 Topeka Street**  
**Suite 221**  
**McConnell AFB, KS 67221-3767**